

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01125 060351Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-07 CU-02 EB-07
AID-05 DHA-02 /104 W
-----060418Z 078555 /17

R 060225Z JUN 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7927
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PROP, CB, FR, TH
SUBJ: CAMBODIAN EMBASSY PROTESTS FRENCH INFORMATION POLICY

1. THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING CIRCULATED A NOTE MAY 26 TO EMBASSIES PROTESTING ALLEGED FRENCH SLANDER. THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR THIS OUTBURST WAS AN ITEM IN THE LOCAL FRENCH EMBASSY NEWS BULLETIN CITING AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THAI VICE PREMIER BOONCHAI THAT THAILAND WAS PREPARED TO GIVE ECONOMIC AID TO CAMBODIA ON CONDITION THAT LATTER AGREE TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO BORDER PROBLEMS. BOONCHAI WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAILAND HAD PREVIOUSLY AIDED CAMBODIA BY FURNISHING NECESSITIES SUCH AS SALT.

2. THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY "DECLARATION" CALLED THIS NEWS ITEM "DEFAMATORY" AND "DESIGNED TO CONFUSE INTERNATIONAL AND FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION." AFTER REPEATING CHARGES THAT BORDER INCIDENTS HAD BEEN PROVOKED BY THE THAI "FASCIST MILITARISTS" WHO
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TOOK POWER IN THE OCTOBER COUP, THE NOTE RETURNED TO ITS ATTACK ON FRENCH INFORMATION POLICY, CITING AN ARTICLE OF JANUARY 31 OF THIS YEAR WHICH "DEFAMED" CAMBODIA BY ACCUSING THE PHNOM PENH REGIME OF HAVING MASSACRED A MILLION PEOPLE SINCE LIBERATION. SUCH ARTICLES, ACCORDING TO THE NOTE, SHOW THAT FRENCH INFORMATION ORGANS ARE "SERVILE TOOLS, HASSALS BODY

AND SOUL TO THE INTEREST OF THE IMPERIALISTS, IN
PARTICULAR AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS AND REACTIONARIES
OF ALL TYPES." THEY "GRAVELY COMPROMISE THE
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND CAMBODIAN PEOPLES."

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE FROM
THIS VANTAGE POINT TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON STATE OF
PLAY OF FRANCO-KHMER RELATIONS, INTEMPERATE LANGUAGE
OF DECLARATION SEEMS GOOD INDICATION THAT ANY REAL
THAW WITH PARIS IS STILL A LONG WAY OFF.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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